

Civil Affairs searches for new home

Story by Pfc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Civil Affairs soldiers leave base almost daily on missions designed to help the local population, but this week, personnel have a different mission — to find a new home.

Team members are searching far and wide for the perfect spot to settle down in as the newest Provincial Reconstruction Team for the area. The change is warmly welcomed by CA personnel who are excited to be living closer to the people they are here to help.

“We’re under military operations (now),” said Staff Sgt. Todd Hartjen, 407th Civil Affairs Battalion. “With PRT (status), we’re



Photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hall

Blind ambition...

Republic of Korea Marines put on an exhibition of their Tae Kwon Do skills at the Bagram civic center Sunday. The exhibition was part of the day-long festivities celebrating the South Korean Independence Day. (See full story tomorrow.)

expanding our boundaries and trying to hit more areas.”

The decision-making process going on right now entails troops going to check out “as many (sites) as we can,” weighing the

risks against the possible advantages.

“The biggest thing is going to be security,” said Hartjen. “It’s tough because the

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CMAP offers relief to Afghan community

Story by Staff Sgt. Len Butler
CJSOTF-A Public Affairs

ZORMAT, Afghanistan—When the convoy rolled into town recently, curious stares and whispers rippled through the local population here, as dozens of newly arrived American medical personnel hastily moved into the local clinic.

These medics were part of the Cooperative Medical Assistance Program, a component of the Gardez-based Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Their mission was a humanitarian one — offering immunizations and health care to those in need.

Though the care is relatively basic, it afforded the townspeople a means that most have gone without for years.

“We offer acute care as well as medication and treatment for minor ills,” said team leader Col. Dalton E. Diamond. “Since we’ve been here, we’ve also diagnosed parasitic infections as well as tuberculosis and malaria symptoms.”

Diamond said the project accommodated more than 200 patients a day for the three-day event.

Resources were somewhat stretched by the turnout, but virtually everyone who sought care was admitted.

With regard to patients’ needs, he explained, we’re limited as medical providers

when we are tied to support potential coalition operations — a reminder that hostilities in the area remain a concern.

“But we’re trying to see as many of the townspeople as we can,” he added.

The care provided was well received, as patients lined up before the doors opened. Soldiers from the Afghan National Army assisted the medical team by providing information to the townspeople and managing the crowds of potential patients and curious onlookers.

“Ross,” a PRT interpreter, said some patients traveled hours to see the medical personnel.

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Taylor records an address to the nation on Sunday, the eve of his expected departure from office.

Taylor blames U.S. for woes

MONROVIA, Liberia – A day before his promised resignation, Liberian President Charles Taylor has delivered a strongly worded taped message to his people in which he blamed the United States and United Nations for contributing to the current conflict through sanctions and embargoes.

He said U.S. President George W. Bush must now help the country to recover.

The speech, which lasted about 20 minutes, was taped at Taylor's home in the capital Monrovia and broadcast Sunday night.

"I can say I am being forced into exile by the world's superpower," he said.

The Liberian president has said he plans to step down Monday and will leave the country soon afterward.

A ceremony is planned with a handful of heads of state, including South African President Thabo Mbeki and Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Taylor has accepted Nigeria's offer of political asylum, but he has refused to say on what day he would leave for Nigeria.

"I have decided to leave because, for the first time in the history all over the world, the United States is using food and other things as a weapon against the Liberian people," Taylor said.

"If the administration of President Bush says that they will not step on this soil and will do nothing as long as I'm here, this further threatens your survival as a people. And as I have said, I can no longer see you suffer."

Taylor left open the door for his eventual return to Liberia saying to his people, "I will always remember you wherever I am. I

say to you God willing, I will be back."

Iraq inquiry keeps heat on Blair

LONDON, England – Britain's inquiry into the suicide of an Iraq weapons expert, which plunged Prime Minister Tony Blair into the worst crisis of his six-year rule, is due to open on Monday.

Top judge Lord Hutton is investigating the death of scientist David Kelly who apparently committed suicide after being drawn into a furious row over Blair's case for going to war in Iraq.

Hutton's inquiry, which is likely to last for months, has also emerged as a test of Blair's leadership.

"You could say he holds the fate of the government in his hands," Vernon Bogdanor, professor of government at Oxford University, told *Reuters* news agency.

Kelly, a bio-warfare expert and a former United Nations weapons inspector in Iraq, was identified as the source of a BBC report that Blair's government "sexed up" an intelligence dossier on the threat of Saddam's weapons of mass destruction.

The failure to find any such weapons in Iraq, four months after Saddam's defeat, undermined public support for Blair.

But the death three weeks ago of a respected expert who reportedly cast doubt on the government's case for toppling Saddam, and was then thrust into the limelight when he was named by the government as the BBC's anonymous source, have hit the prime minister's personal ratings.

Explosion injures 2 U.S. soldiers

TIKRIT, Iraq – Two separate attacks on U.S. soldiers in Iraq wounded five U.S. soldiers in the past 24 hours, according to military officials.

Three soldiers from Task Force Ironhorse were wounded overnight Saturday during a raid in the Baq'uba area, north of Baghdad, when their vehicle came under small arms fire and a grenade attack.

The wounded forces were evacuated to a military hospital and listed in stable condition, according to military officials.

Early Sunday, an explosion in Tikrit —

believed to be the result of an improvised explosive device — wounded three U.S. soldiers, according to military officials.

Tikrit, the ancestral home of deposed dictator Saddam Hussein, has been a hotspot between U.S. forces and Iraqi dissidents.

Four soldiers were wounded in a rocket-propelled grenade attack at the 4th Infantry Division headquarters in Tikrit overnight Friday, U.S. military officials said.



Gregory Hines died Saturday in Los Angeles.

Actor-dancer Gregory Hines dies of cancer Saturday

LOS ANGELES, Calif. – Tony Award winner Gregory Hines, the tap-dancing actor who starred on Broadway and in movies including "White Nights" and "Running Scared," has died, his publicist Allen Eichorn said. He was 57. Hines died Saturday in Los Angeles of cancer, Eichorn said.

The dancer, among the best in his generation, won a 1993 Tony for the musical "Jelly's Last Jam."

Hines became internationally known as part of a jazz tap duo with his brother, Maurice, and the two danced together in the musical revue "Eubie!" in 1978. The brothers later performed together in Broadway's "Sophisticated Ladies" and on film in 1984's "The Cotton Club."

In "The Cotton Club," Hines also had a lead acting role, which led to more work in film. He starred with Mikhail Baryshnikov in 1985's "White Nights" and with Billy Crystal in 1986's "Running Scared," and he appeared with Whitney Houston and Angela Bassett in 1995's "Waiting to Exhale," among other movies.

On television, he had his own sitcom in 1997 called "The Gregory Hines Show," as well as a recurring role on "Will and Grace."

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second thing has to be accessibility for people.”

Security and accessibility are two tasks that are hard to make work well together, he added. But despite the difficult decision, the CA team should be deciding on its new location within the month, said Hartjen.

“Right now we are looking at different sites and will be for the next two weeks,” he said.

The crew is acquiring many of their leads from local government officials as part of the process.

“We’re trying to do this by word of mouth to pick up good sites,” said Hartjen. “(And) we’re trying to narrow it down to three really quickly.”

At this time, the CA team would like to remain within an hour of Bagram for logistical reasons, but the situation in Kabul is not very stable right now.

“There’s been a lot of IED’s (Improvised Explosive Device) there and we’re a little hesitant on that area right now,” said Hartjen. “With that many people in a condensed area, it’s dangerous.”

The more likely spots are Charikar and the textile factory, Golbahar, part of the Kapisa Province, he said.

They have already established ties in Parwan and Kapisa Provinces, making them desirable and dependable living situations.

“Charikar has made it known that they want (the PRT),” Hartjen said. “And there are good people there too.”

“We feel very safe there,” he added. “Right now, that’s the best location we’ve seen so far, but this can all change.”

Golbahar offers advantages for the team with amenities such as running water and electricity, Hartjen said. Security is also an advantage there, where standing seven-foot walls encircle the area.

The area also contains four buildings in a square block format, which is a bonus when size is a factor in choosing a location.

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Photo by Spc. Justin Pearson

3rd Special Forces Group Headquarters Company Surgeon Army Lt. Col. Jim M. Noland comforts a sick child brought to the Zurmant Civilian Area Hospital during the three-day Cooperative Medical Assistance Program.

“There are enough rooms for everyone,” said Hartjen. “So basically, we could move in right away.”

The switch to a PRT is a move that will benefit all involved. It will allow CA personnel a chance to be more accessible to the local nationals and will give them an opportunity to include many non-profit organizations into their humanitarian aid projects.

“There’s a lot of work to be done,” said Hartjen who recognizes the limitations they have right now and is anxious to include others in the mission to rebuild and stabilize Afghanistan.

As a CA team, funding is hard to come by, said Hartjen. He said they did receive a generous amount last year, and hopes that the improvements they made with the funding will increase their chances of receiving increased support in the future. The switch to a PRT just may be the ticket.

“With PRT, we might get funding in different arrangements from different areas,” said Hartjen.

The construction projects they have helped complete, including schools, roads and bridges, are bound to have an impact.

“It’s amazing how roads pave the way for other people to come and do good things,” he said.

The main goal of the team is to hand the country back over to the local population, return their society to a functioning state and leave the area, confident that the Afghan people will prosper and grow as a nation.

“It’s the changing of the guard,” said Hartjen. “Our end mission is to hand (the job of rebuilding) over to the local nation(als) and have them be able to do things for themselves.”

“The whole goal is for us to not be here anymore,” he added. But until that day comes, CA personnel continue to search for new projects that will benefit the area.

The transition from a CA team to a PRT should be completed by Dec. 1.

He added that the language barrier and the fact that many people simply didn’t understand the rules established for admission had potential complications.

“Illiteracy in the rural areas is a problem, in that many don’t understand what they have to do to be seen by the medical people,” he explained. “Some will just walk up and sit down and wait.”

Poor diets resulting from poverty and food shortages, the severe drought and the ravages of war have taken a toll on the country and on the health of many farmers and their families.

In addition, Afghan health care providers are hard pressed to obtain adequate medical supplies. “There are many people, including children, who are sick,” Ross said. “Sometimes all it takes is a fever for them to succumb to death.”

Diamond said the number of patients examined gives a sampling of the health trends and identifies health patterns in a given area.

If there are prevalent illnesses identified among the population that requires more care, medical teams schedule a return trip to the area to fully eradicate potential health problems.

“The bottom line,” he explained, “is that we will do whatever it takes to ensure these people get the care they deserve.”

Army to investigate Pneumonia cases

Story by Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Army is deploying two medical teams overseas — one to Germany and the other to Iraq — to examine a spate of pneumonia cases within the U.S. Central Command region that apparently killed two soldiers.

Since March 1, about 100 active duty service members deployed to Southwest Asia in support of military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq have come down with pneumonia, DoD civilian and military medical officials told reporters at a Pentagon press briefing.

Army officials noted that 15 service members among the 100 had contracted severe pneumonia. Among those severe cases, according to an Army Surgeon General news release, 10 have recovered, two have died, and three remain hospitalized.

“We are deeply concerned about the (soldiers’) deaths,” said Dr. David N. Tornberg, deputy assistant secretary of defense for clinical and program policy. He emphasized that “the health, safety, well-being of our fighting men and women are of critical ... utmost importance to us.”

And “we’ll spare nothing to safeguard their well-being,” declared Tornberg, accompanied at the briefing by Col. Robert DeFraites from the Army Surgeon General’s Office.

The Army, Tornberg noted, is taking the lead in the investigation, which was prompted by the soldiers’ deaths.

One epidemiological consultation team is heading for a U.S. military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, to examine service members being treated there, DeFraites explained, while the other team is going to Iraq. He said both teams are en route to their destinations and may arrive as early as Aug. 6.

The two soldiers who died from pneumonia had both served in Iraq and were from different units, DeFraites noted, pointing out that 10 of the 15 cases of severe pneumonia had occurred in Iraq, “where the majority of troops are.”

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Young Guns II.” Billy “The Kid” and his gang are wanted by the law, and when “Doc” Scurlock and Chavez are captured, Billy has to save them...

Tomorrow’s movie will be “The Patriot.”



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
Bagram:	Mostly clear H: 93F L: 68F	Mostly clear H: 93F L: 73F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 102F L: 73F	Dusty H: 102F L: 73F
Kabul:	Haze H: 93F L: 70F	Haze H: 95F L: 70F
Uzbekistan:	Clear H: 98F L: 58F	Clear H: 100F L: 62F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

Vick dazzles; Atlanta loses preseason opener to Green Bay

ATLANTA – Michael Vick provided a tantalizing glimpse of what the NFL can expect this season.

Vick was 6-for-7 for 110 yards, including a 43-yard touchdown pass to Brian Finneran, before the Atlanta Falcons squandered a big lead in their preseason opener, losing to the Green Bay Packers 27-21 Saturday night.



Michael Vick

Vick, voted to the Pro Bowl in his first year as a starter, showed no signs of letting up before a raucous Georgia Dome sellout crowd that cheered his every move. Playing just the first quarter, he guided a pair of touchdown drives before another possession stalled out on downs in Green Bay territory.

"We came out early and set the tempo for the game the way we wanted to play," Vick said. "We are excited because we did some good things in the first half, and that's exactly what we wanted to see."

The Packers, coming off a 9-0 loss to Kansas City in a preseason opener shortened by inclement weather, got off to another sloppy start. They trailed 21-3 in the second quarter and jumped offsides five times in the first half, though Atlanta declined two of the penalties.

Green Bay rallied once the starters were done for the night. Najeh Davenport scored on a 3-yard run late in the first half, then sparked a 17-point third quarter with a 4-yard TD run.

Ryan Longwell kicked a 40-yard field goal and Bobby Jackson put the Packers ahead for the first time, scooping up a fumble by Doug Johnson at the Falcons 2 and returning it for a touchdown with 2:49 left in the third quarter.

Johnson, Atlanta's No. 2 quarterback, was 12 of 22 for 103 yards, with a 7-yard touchdown pass to T.J. Duckett. But Johnson also was sacked three times behind a makeshift line.

Parcells falls; Smith shines in Arizona

TEMPE, Ariz. – Emmitt Smith ran the ball once for no gain, caught an 11-yard pass, then watched from the sidelines as his old team from Dallas fell flat in Bill Parcells' debut as coach.



Emmitt Smith

Bill Gramatica kicked field goals from 40 and 27 yards, and Kevin Kasper scored on a 35-yard reverse to give the Arizona Cardinals a 13-0 victory over the Cowboys in the teams' preseason opener on a sweltering Saturday night.

"I didn't quite expect as poor a performance as that," Parcells said. "We didn't really do much of anything."

Even though it was 110 degrees at kickoff and 107 at the start of

the second half, Smith barely broke a sweat in his first appearance for Arizona.

He participated in the Cardinals' first three plays, then called it a night.

"It was weird seeing the 'Blue' walk down the hallway without me," Smith said. "It was the earliest I've ever played in preseason. I got enough work tonight to make up for the past 13 years I missed."

The NFL's career rushing leader carried for no gain on the game's first play. Then on third-and-10, he took a pass from Jeff Blake and dodged a couple of Cowboys for an 11-yard gain and a first down.

"I wanted to get loose and stretch my legs running," Smith said, "but if I have to go out and catch the ball, I'll do that too."

Cardinals coach Dave McGinnis said that Smith's only catch was a big one.

"I thought the tone was set in this ballgame on third down when we swung the ball out there to No. 22," McGinnis said. "That's what he's done his whole career. When you need nine, he gets 10. When you need five, he gets six. That's what he brings."

The drive continued, with Blake completing passes of 13 and 15 yards to Kasper to set up Gramatica's first field goal.

Smith stirred up a controversy when he told *Sports Illustrated* that he "felt like a diamond surrounded by trash" last season. But he apologized repeatedly this week.

As the teams left the field at halftime, Smith had his arm around ex-teammate Troy Hambrick on one side and Roy Williams on the other.

"Yeah, I talked to a couple of the guys, but we didn't talk about anything that was said the last couple of weeks," Smith said.

Then he added with a grin, "I think somebody else has taken over as the loser this week."

Clijsters eyes No.1 Tennis player ranking

CARSON, Calif. — Kim Clijsters is a win away from being No. 1 in the world.

Clijsters rallied from deficits in both sets to beat No. 16 Francesca Schiavone of Italy 7-5, 6-4 at the JPMorgan Chase Open on Saturday night.

"Mentally, I felt pretty good at the end of both sets, and that's a good feeling to take into your next match," she said.

If she beats Lindsay Davenport in the final on Sunday, she will replace the injured Serena Williams at No. 1, taking over the top spot for the first time in her career.

Davenport broke Ai Sugiyama's serve six times in a 6-2, 6-1 victory to reach the final for the seventh time in eight years.

Clijsters, the top-seeded player, defeated Davenport 6-3, 6-3 last

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week in the Acura Classic semifinals at Carlsbad, Calif., to tie their rivalry at six wins apiece. The Belgian is 3-0 on hard courts against Davenport in 2003.

"I would really like to have a win over someone ranked higher than me," said Davenport, No. 4 in the world.

Clijsters has reached the semifinals or better in all 13 of her WTA Tour events this year, her most consistent start to a season. Her five titles tie her with countrywoman Justine Henin-Hardenne for most this year.

"It would be nice if I could win, but I'll have to play my best tennis," Clijsters said. "I'll have to hit a lot of the lines and make her move. That's still the part of the game where she's beatable."

Little separated Clijsters and Schiavone, who played against the rowdy backdrop of a Los Angeles Galaxy soccer game going on in the stadium across the plaza. Drums banged, horns blew and fans chanted and sang during the nearly 1-1/2-hour tennis match.

"I wish I could be out there watching it," said Clijsters, whose father was Belgium's soccer player of the year in 1988. "The closer to kickoff, it was more noisy."

Love cruises to fourth; wins International

CASTLE ROCK, Colo. — Davis Love III took all of the suspense out of The International on Sunday, birdieing three of the first four holes and cruising to his fourth victory of the season.

Love led wire-to-wire for his 18th career title. He also vaulted from fourth to first on the PGA Tour's money list with \$5.1 million heading into next week's PGA Championship.



Davis Love III jumped out to an early lead with superior putting in his fist four holes.

"Obviously, the first two rounds set the tournament up for me," said Love, who compiled a tournament-record 36 points after 36 holes. "All I had to do was play good on the weekend and not make any big mistakes."

"I basically won it with my putter the first two days."

Love, who began the final round with 41 points and a 10-point lead, added 5 points under the modified Stableford scoring system used in this event. His lead never dipped below 10 points Sunday, and beat Vijay Singh and Retief Goosen by a tournament-record 12.

Chris DiMarco was another point back at 33, and John Rollins had 31. Ernie Els and Phil Mickelson each had 26. Els had the day's best round, 13 points.

The scoring system gives players 8 points for double

eagle, 5 for eagle, 2 for birdie, zero for par, minus-1 for bogey and minus-3 for double bogey or worse.

Rich Beem won last year with a four-round total of 44 points.

An emotional Love dedicated the victory to his wife Robin. In a press conference on Wednesday, he denied that he and his wife were having marital problems.

The field, cut after 36 holes, was trimmed again Saturday to the low 36 players and ties for Sunday's final round.

Goosen said demanding pin placements on Sunday helped Love maintain his lead.

"We knew the flags were going to be tough today," Goosen said. "Every pin was in the toughest position you could get on the greens. I think the rest of field was sort of feeling they were playing for second place after Davis' big lead."

Love got off to a quick start, sinking a 25-foot birdie putt on the first hole.

After three-putting No. 2 for bogey, he rebounded with two more birdies, making putts of 15 and 4 feet.

That boosted his lead to 15 points over Rollins, who made four straight pars.

"I knew I had to get off to a real good start today," Love said. "That was the challenge for me. I made nice putts at 1 and 3 and then hit a good shot into 4."



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By Kevin Kilgore

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